

Message Text

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ACTION OES-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ACDA-10 AGRE-00 AID-05 CEA-01
CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 CIEP-02 COME-00 DLOS-06 DODE-00
DOTE-00 EB-07 EPA-04 ERDA-07 FEAE-00 FMC-02 TRSE-00
H-02 INR-07 INT-05 IO-13 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
NSF-02 OMB-01 PA-02 PM-04 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15
SAL-01 EA-09 /151 W

----- 030890 /46

R 161214Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2136

UNCLAS MOSCOW 19604

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EFIS, UR, US
SUBJ: DISCUSSIONS AT MIN. FISHERIES: US AND SOVIET 200-MILE
JURISDICTIONS

REF: STATE 295103, 304149, 301979; SEOUL 9925

1. EMBASSY SCIENCE COUNSELOR AND SCIENCE OFFICER MET
DECEMBER 15 AT USSR MINISTRY OF FISHERIES WITH KUZNETSOV
AND ZNAMENSKAYA OF FOREIGN RELATIONS DEPARTMENT TO
DISCUSS APPLICATION FOR FISHING PERMITS FOR SOVIET VESSELS,
PER STATE 295103.

2. KUZNETSOV ASSURED SCIENCE COUNSELOR THAT THE PRE-
LIMINARY APPLICATION ALREADY HAS BEEN PREPARED AND
TRANSMITTED TO SOVIET EMBASSY, WASHINGTON, FOR DELIVERY
TO THE DEPARTMENT BY DECEMBER 19. THE ADDITIONAL,
DETAILED INFORMATION FOR EACH VESSEL IS BEING PREPARED
AND WILL BE AVAILABLE BY JANUARY 10 OR 15. PERMIT
APPLICATIONS ARE BEGIN SUBMITTED FOR MORE VESSELS THAN
ORIGINALLY PLANNED IN ORDER TO ALLOW FOR SUBSTITUTION OF
VESSELS IN THE FISHING FLEET AS MAY BE REQUIRED (FOR
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REPAIRS, CREW CHANGES, ETC.). KUZNETSOV ALSO EXPRESSED
INTEREST IN SEEING AN EXAMPLE OF THE PERMIT WHICH WILL
BE ISSUED. SCIENCE COUNSELOR REGRETTE THAT EMBASSY
DID NOT HAVE A FACSIMILE PERMIT TO SHOW HIM.

3. SCIENCE COUNSELOR TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO RAISE AS

WELL THE SUBJECT OF THE EXTENSION OF SOVIET FISHERY JURISDICTION TO 200 MILES. HE NOTED THAT, WHILE THE DECREE IS SPECIFIC IN SETTING PENALTIES AND THE AMOUNTS OF FINES IN CASES OF VIOLATIONS, THERE IS NOT MENTION OF THE MEASURES WHICH WILL BE TAKEN TO SET CATCH LIMITS, TO AUTHORIZE VESSELS TO ENGAGE IN FISHERY OPERATIONS, OR OTHERWISE IMPLEMENT THE PROVISIONS OF THE DECREE. KUZNETSOV REPLIED THAT ALL SUCH QUESTIONS WILL BE DECIDED BY THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS AND THAT NO DECISIONS ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE NEW FISHERY POLICY HAVE YET BEEN REACHED, HE ADDED THAT HE DID NOT KNOW HOW THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MIGHT DECIDE THE QUESTION, AND AGREED THAT A SYSTEM SIMILAR TO THAT TO BE EMPLOYED BY US, I.E., FISHING PERMITS FOR EACH VESSEL, WOULD SEEM NECESSARY.

4. THE SCIENCE COUNSELOR NOTED THAT THE DECREE DID NOT PROVIDE THE DATE ON WHICH THE PROVISIONS OF THE NEW POLICY WOULD BEGIN TO BE ENFORCED. KUZNETSOV REPLIED THAT IT WOULD TAKE SOME TIME TO ESTABLISH NEW PROCEDURES AND TO MAKE NECESSARY ARRANGEMENTS FOR REGULATING FOREIGN FISHING ACTIVITY IN THE AREA NEWLY INCLUDED WITHIN SOVIET JURISDICTION. WHEN ENFORCEMENT OF THE POLICY COULD THEN BEGIN WOULD ALSO BE DECIDED BY THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS.

5. IN REPLY TO THE SCIENCE COUNSELOR'S QUESTION, KUZNETSOV STATED THAT HE DID NOT KNOW, BUT THAT HE THOUGHT IT UNLIKELY THAT A MAP WOULD BE PUBLISHED INDICATING THE EXTENT OF THE NEW FISHERY JURISDICTION. "AFTER ALL," HE SAID, "THE UNITED STATES DID NOT PUBLISH A MAP OF ITS NEW FISHERY LIMITS." HE CONTINUED: "WE ARE UNCLASSIFIED

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DOING ONLY WHAT THE UNITED STATES HAS DON."

6. THE SCIENCE COUNSELOR ASKED IF THIS MEANT THAT THE SOVIET UNION WOULD NOW BEGIN NEGOTIATING AGREEMENTS SIMILAR TO THE GIFA IT HAS JUST CONCLUDED WITH THE U.S. KUZNETSOV REPLIED THAT HE THOUGHT IT UNLIKELY. HE STATED THAT IT WAS HIS OWN ASSUMPTION THAT DISCUSSIONS WOULD HAVE TO BE HELD WITH INTERESTED GOVERNMENTS, BUT THAT HE DOUBTED HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD SEEK ANY FORMAL AGREEMENTS.

7. KUZNETSOV ADDED THAT HE HAD NO INFORMATION ON THE NEW POLICY OR ON ITS IMPLEMENTATION BEYOND THAT PUBLISHED IN THE DECEMBER 10 DECREE OF THE SUPREME SOVIET. ALL FURTHER DETAILS, HE STRESSED, WOULD BE DECIDED BY THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS.

8. COMMENT: KUZNETSOV WAS QUITE WILLING TO DISCUSS THE

FISHERY DECREE AND ITS IMPLICATIONS, BUT APPEARED GENUINELY TO HAVE LITTLE INFORMATION ON THE IMPLEMENTATION MEASURES WHICH WILL BE TAKEN. THE GREAT FLURRY OF ACTIVITY IN THE NORMALLY SEDATE PROTOCOL AND FOREIGN RELATIONS DEPARTMENTS WOULD SEEM TO CONFIRM THAT THE MINISTRY OF FISHERIES, AT LEAST AT THAT LEVEL, HAD BEEN TAKEN BY SURPRISE BY THE DECREE AND IS NOT YET PREPARED TO BEGIN SETTING CATCH LEVELS, ASSIGNING QUOTAS, ISSUING PERMITS, OR OTHERWISE ENFORCING THE NEW POLICY. IT WOULD, THEREFORE, SEEM PREMATURE TO INITIATE DISCUSSIONS ON SUCH SPECIFIC ISSUES AS ROKG FISHERIES WITHIN THE NEWLY SET LIMITS (PER SEOUL 9925) UNTIL THERE ARE INDICATIONS THAT THE SOVIETS HAVE REACHED EVEN PRELIMINARY DECISIONS ON HOW THEY WILL PROCEED. END COMMENT.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ECONOMIC COOPERATION, FISHING AGREEMENTS, FISHING BOATS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MOSCOW19604
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760463-0492
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761237/aaaabftj.tel
Line Count: 130
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION OES
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 295103, 76 SEOUL 9925
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: schwenja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 JUN 2004 by hattaycs>; APPROVED <25 AUG 2004 by schwenja>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DISCUSSIONS AT MIN. FISHERIES: US AND SOVIET 200-MILE JURISDICTIONS
TAGS: EFIS, UR, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006